



CIB BULLETIN #7

Conference Meeting September 2-16, 2011

West Africa

ITEMS OF INTEREST

➤ **Tenth Anniversary of the CIB:**

S. Judith Ann shared some history of the beginnings of the CIB and its official establishment on November 6, 2001. She wrote an article entitled, *A Double Anniversary*, for the 50th anniversary issue of the AIM Bulletin. The Conference will celebrate the 10th anniversary on September 9th.

➤ **Greeting from A.P. Notker Wolf:**

The Abbot Primate extended congratulations to the Conference Members on the 10th anniversary of the CIB. He reflected on living out our Benedictine Charism with joy and concentrating on what is essential in our lives.

Abbot Notker invited the Delegates to serve as observers at the Congress of Abbots at Sant' Anselmo, Rome from September 18 to 26, 2012. **He noted that attendance at the Congress is limited to the Abbots and the CIB delegates due to space limitations at Sant' Anselmo.**

➤ **Review of Conference Membership:**

Recent changes in Conference Membership includes: Region 1: S. M. Ester Stucchi will become the new Delegate in September, 2012. Region 4: M. Andrea Savage is the new Substitute. Region 11: M. Martha Lucia Ribeiro Teixeira is the new Delegate. Region 12: M. Maria Cristina Moroni is the new Delegate and M. Margarita Maillot is the new Substitute. Region 14 M. Maria Araceli A. Escursion is the new Substitute. The Prioress of Region 17 met together for the first time during the Conference Meeting. They re- elected M. Henriette Wëndbala Kalmogo as Delegate and elected M. Blandine-Marie Kuegah as substitute. We are grateful for the service of the former Delegates and Substitutes and welcome the new Delegates and Substitutes

➤ **CIB Finances:**

The Conference reviewed and discussed the 2011 financial report. S. Diane Cook, CIB Treasurer, noted in her comments that if 10 Regions paid the full subscription fee of 2250€ the CIB would be able to meet their budget. It was noted that the Delegates are expected to encourage the Monasteries in their Region to contribute something toward their CIB subscription.

The 2012 budget was reviewed and approved.

In her comments, S. Judith Ann noted that all services provided to the CIB by are uncompensated and thanked the Prioresses and the Monasteries who enable their Sisters to work for the CIB.

➤ **2010 Symposium Review:**

The Delegates reflections on the Symposium included these comments: an appreciation for the liturgical celebrations in the various languages of the Conference; the intensity of sharing during the table discussions, at meals and informally; the increased level of trust and love for each other demonstrated in so many ways throughout the Symposium; the deep sharing of spirituality and common values. Several shared their appreciation for the Symposium CD and described ways in which they used them within their Region. It was also noted that the CIB Newsletter and Website were used to educate their monasteries and the Region about the work of the CIB.

➤ **2010-2014 Goals- Processing:**

S. Judith Ann directed a process to address the CIB Goals during three days of the Conference Meeting. S. Paul Galland, Côte d'Ivoire, shared a reflection on the West African response to the CIB Goals on September 5th. She spoke of the ways that the monasteries in the region are trying to live out the goals of solidarity, authenticity and respect. A copy of her presentation is posted on the CIB Website.

➤ **Suggestions for 2014 Symposium:**

S. Judith Ann explained the process and timeline for planning a Symposium. The Symposium theme sets the tone and direction for the topics presented by the speakers. The Delegates reviewed the previous Symposia themes and the 31 suggestions made by the 2010 Symposium participants for the 2014 Symposium. Small group discussion focused on answering the question: What am I hearing? Each small group presented one possible theme for the 2011 Symposium. The group suggested that "Listening" be part of the theme. Each group then suggested possible speakers and indicated their area of expertise. These suggestions will be reviewed at the Administrative Council Meeting in January 2012.

➤ **CIB Administrative Council Meeting in Israel- January 2012:**

2012 CIB Conference activities begin on January 13th with the Administrative Council Meeting in Israel. M. Christine Devillon, Jerusalem, Israel will coordinate the visit to women's and men's monasteries throughout the country. We are grateful to M. Christine for her invitation to experience the Benedictine presence in the Holy Land.

➤ **CIB Conference Meeting in Italy-2012:**

The CIB Conference Meeting will be held in Italy from September 12th to 25th. The Conference Meeting will begin at San Benedetto in Valledaqua, near Aquasanta Terme, Ascoli Piceno, Italy from September 12th through the 14th. The Conference Members will travel to Rome on September 15 in preparation for attendance at the Congress of Abbots from September 17th-25th. Arrival date is September 11th and departure date is September 26th. Transportation will be coordinated from the Rome Airport to Valledaqua then back to Rome. The delegates will receive their invitation letter in February via email.

➤ **2013 CIB Conference Meeting in Brazil:**

In September, 2013 the CIB Conference will meet in Brazil. M. Vania Maria Miranda Toscano de Britto of Brazil presented a proposed schedule which was reviewed by the Delegates. Be prepared for a very exciting opportunity to experience Benedictine Life in the monasteries of Brazil.

- **AIM International Board Meeting-November 10-11, 2011, Ligugé, France:**
 Congratulations to AIM International who celebrated their 50th Anniversary in November. S. Judith Ann attended the AIM International Board Meeting and 50th Anniversary celebration. Go to www.aimintl.org for further information about the 50th Anniversary.
- **St. Benedict Education Foundation Board Meeting:**
 S. Judith Ann serves on the St. Benedict Education Foundation Board which was established in the U.S.A. to raise funds in support of Sant'Anselmo. The St. Scholastica Scholarship Fund was established within the Foundation to provide scholarships to Benedictine Women who study at Sant'Anselmo. Please encourage your Sisters who are interested in studying at Sant'Anselmo to apply for these scholarships.
- **2006 Catalogus Revision Update:**
 The Official Directory of International Benedictine Women, *Catalogus*- 2006 edition, will be revised prior to the 2014 CIB Symposium. S. Mariangela Yator, Assisi, will complete the data entry for the update. S. Felicitas Seisenenberger, Munich, will do the final layout for the printer. A time line was proposed that would enable publication in 2014 for distribution at the CIB Symposium. Data would be gathered in early 2013 to allow one year for data entry. Our goal is to have the copy ready for the printer in January, 2014. Please watch for further information in 2012.
- **Update: CERL-(CIB Electronic Reference Library):**
 Work on the development of the CERL is ongoing. Earlier this year, S. Monica Lewis, Dinklage, instructed S. Mariangela Yator, Assisi, in the process to update materials to be included in the CERL. We express thanks to these Sisters and their monasteries for providing these services to the CIB.
- **CIB Website**
 Our website has information about the CIB including the 2010 Symposium and CIB Conference Meetings. Please go to: www.benedictines-cib.org for the latest information about the CIB. We are grateful to S. Benedict Brown of Turvey Abbey, England who maintains our website. Please contact S. Mary Jane Vergotz, CIB Secretary at smaryjane@mtstbenedict.org to post information from your Region on the website.

A REMINDER FROM THE CIB HANDBOOK

Responsibilities of the CIB Delegate:

- To attend the Conference Meetings, or to ensure that the Region is represented.
- To be in contact with the monasteries in her Region at least by letter.
- To pass on information and/or reports about the work of the Conference and the International Symposia to the monasteries in her Region.
- To facilitate communication within the Region and on the international level.
- To attend the Congress of Abbots at the invitation of the Abbot Primate.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A Gift Presentation:

M. Anastazija Čizmin, Region 8, Croatia, honored the CIB with a gift presentation: “On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the CIB I have a gift. It is a replica of the Čika's cross, made of gold-plated copper. The original cross is dated at the end of the 7th century, when it was brought to the Monastery of Svete Marije as dowry by Čika, the restorer of the monastery and the sister of the Croatian king Petar Krešimir IV in 1066. The cross founded our monastery, which successfully sailed across long centuries. So I wish for the CIB to sail boldly under the sign of the cross. The golden chain is new, made of small chains and so let the CIB be accompanied by the links of unity, and love. As a precaution, I brought it around my neck and now I am giving it to the CIB moderator Sr. Judith Ann Heble.”

Congratulations to S. Mary John Mananzan:

S. Mary John Mananzan was recently named as one of the Top 100 Inspiring Women in the World by Women Deliver, a New York based global advocacy group. She was chosen because of her long commitment to advocacy for women in the Philippines. Sr. Mary John serves on the CIB Administrative Council and Region 14 Delegate.